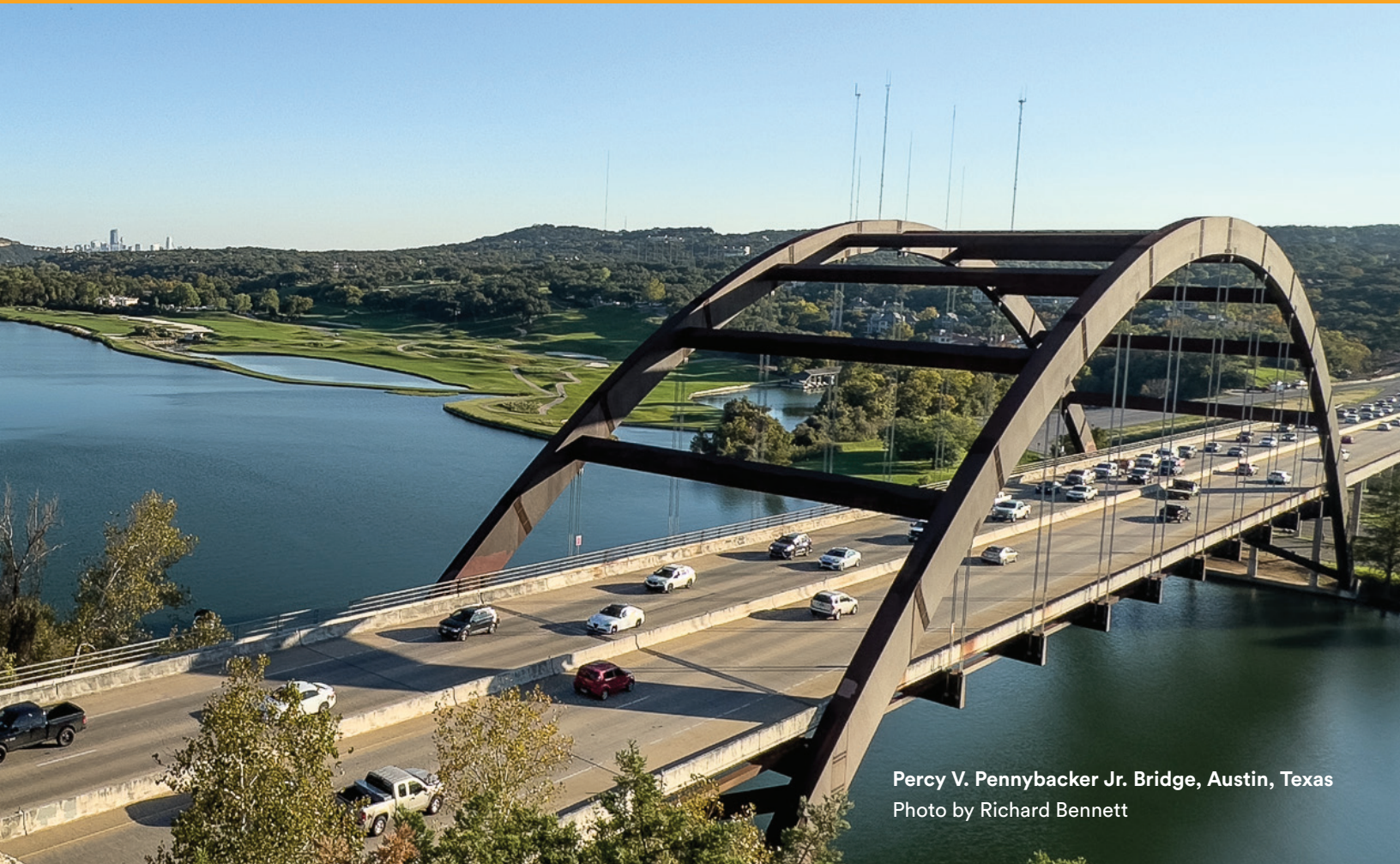


# The BRIDGE

A PUBLICATION OF AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH



Percy V. Pennybacker Jr. Bridge, Austin, Texas  
Photo by Richard Bennett

VOL. 19 NO. 12

APRIL 1, 2026



**AUSTIN BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

LET THERE BE LIGHT

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# A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

ABC Family,

Christ is risen! Holy Week is here, and I'm looking forward to celebrating the greatest day in history alongside you. The significance of the resurrection cannot be overstated as Paul explained, *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins"* (1 Corinthians 15:17 ESV). If Jesus did not receive new life, we cannot receive new life either. But praise be to God, the tomb is empty, our debt is paid, and together the church proclaims, "He is risen indeed!"

I want to invite you to join us for a meaningful weekend of worship. Our 6pm Good Friday service will set our focus on the cross. Dr. Stearns and the Worship Ministry will do a wonderful job leading us in beautiful music, scripture readings, and we will conclude our service with a brief message and the Lord's Supper. Childcare is available for children 5 years old and under.

Sunday morning will be a great celebration of Jesus' triumphant resurrection. We will offer three worship services at 8am (Choir and Orchestra led), 9:30am (Choir and Orchestra led), and 11:15am (Band led). Our annual egg hunt will commence immediately following the 11:15am service. Keep in mind BFGs will not meet on Easter Sunday, but the nursery and Uplift (preschool worship) will be open for children ages 5 and under.

Take time this week to pray. Thank God for what He has done for man through Jesus Christ. Ask for God to bless our gatherings this weekend. Take time this week to invite. We all know someone who needs to be at church this weekend. You never know how one simple invitation can change a person's life forever. I look forward to seeing you this weekend.

Onward and Upward,

**DR. JONATHAN SPENCER**

**SENIOR PASTOR**





## THIS SUNDAY

### Easter at Austin Baptist Church

8am, 9:30am, and 11:15am services

## DEACONS ON CALL

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30, 2026



**Robert Christianson**

512-517-0283



**Billy Wright**

512-468-0017

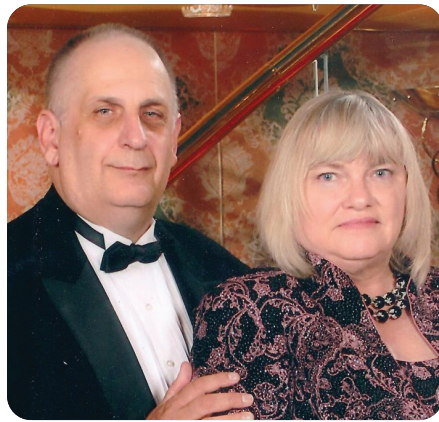
# CHURCHWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026



**Josh Baker**



**Steve &  
Belinda Means**



**Alex Luxeder**



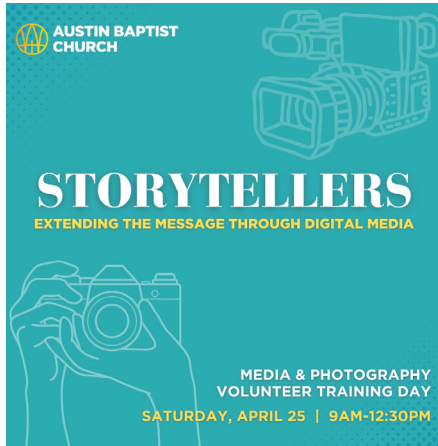
**Alan & Pam  
Beebe**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



For all event and weekly activity information, please visit  
[austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/EVENTS)

# WEEKLY REMINDERS



## MIDWEEK MENU

**NEXT WEEK'S MENU**  
APRIL 8

**COST:** \$10 per person;  
\$5 for kids' meal (12 & under)

**Cheeseburgers and french fries**

Please note that Midweek dinner is served in the Café.  
Seating for dinner is in the Great Hall until 6:30pm.



## GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 3

**6:00PM**

Choir-led service & Lord's Supper

## EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5

**8:00AM & 9:30AM**

Choir-led service

**11:00AM**

Band-led service

## KIDS EGG HUNT

APRIL 5

**AFTER 11:15AM SERVICE**

Indoor Egg Hunt

[austinbaptistchurch.com/Easter2026](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/Easter2026)

**ABC  
SERVES  
AUSTIN, TX  
APRIL 18, 2026**

## **WHAT IS ABC SERVES?**

Every spring, we set aside a special day to step outside the church walls and serve the local community of Austin. This year, save the date for ABC Serves on April 18th!

## **NEXT STEPS TO VOLUNTEER**

- Sign up [HERE](#) or at [austinbaptistchurch.com/ABCServes2026](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/ABCServes2026) (and also view where your BFG class will be serving).
- Choose which Bible Fellowship Group you'd like to serve with (every group will serve with a different service organization based locally in Austin).
- Pick a T-Shirt size (or choose to wear one from a previous year).

# MEN'S STEAK DINNER

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: THURSDAY, APRIL 9

THURS.  
APRIL 16  
6PM-8PM

## WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR VERY FIRST MEN'S STEAK DINNER!

Come be encouraged in the Word of God with other men and enjoy a 16 oz hand-cut ribeye steak dinner hosted and prepared by our deacons.

We are also excited to welcome our guest speaker Darin Kinder, a former US Secret Service agent, Medal of Valor recipient, and a survivor of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. Darin's unique experience of those events helped form his Christian perspective as an author and speaker. He brings a word that men need to hear. So invite friends, colleagues, and neighbors and don't miss out on this fantastic men's ministry event!

REGISTER AT [AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/STEAKDINNER](http://AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/STEAKDINNER)



WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
DARIN KINDER, FORMER SPECIAL AGENT

YOUR GENEROSITY IS  
*more than a gift*

ABC'S GOAL  
**\$15,000**  
FOR NATIONAL MISSIONS



Give online at  
[AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/GIVE](http://AUSTINBAPTISTCHURCH.COM/GIVE)

Annie Armstrong  
Easter Offering®



North American  
Mission Board



# ABC Women's Ministry

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Hello ladies!

I'm so looking forward to this Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! We'll also have several photo spots set up, so be sure to take a moment to capture some special memories with family and friends.

I'm also excited to invite you to our next **Sweet Sunday on April 26th from 4–6pm in the Great Hall**. It will be a relaxed, joy-filled time of fellowship for ladies of all ages, complete with sweet and savory treats, a fun program, and a meaningful devotional. The best part? There's nothing you need to bring and no registration required—just come as you are and feel free to bring a friend.

I truly look forward to this time to gather, connect, grow closer, and deepen friendships both new and old as we continue to be woven together in stronger ways.

Woven Together,  
**ANITA MCGINNIS**  
WOMEN'S MINISTER



A P R I L 2 6 | G R E A T H A L L | 4 P M - 6 P M

**Palm Sunday: ABC Kids Choir**  
Sunday, March 29, 2026



# From the Pages of Bill's Notebook

She had let off the throttle and killed the engine, but she was still careening toward me as I was preparing to help her dock her Sea-Doo jet ski at the church lake party. She was laughing and smiling, having had an exhilarating ride around the lake, but not yet realizing the impact of her mistake. I had been around watercraft long enough to know that she was going to hit the dock pretty hard and get a jolt. My wide eyes told her something was wrong. She tried to turn, but with no power jets, she had no control. I tried to cushion the crash by catching it with my feet and legs, but they were no match for the momentum of the water rocket. I had scrapes on the backs of my legs from the dock and my feet hurt from trying to cushion the impact. She just about fell off the saddle as the jet ski hit the dock. A part of the bumper strip buckled and the dock was marred, but she continued to laugh as she climbed on the dock and threw the life jacket at me. I wanted to be upset with this friend from one of our churches, but after some thought, God reminded me of the times I had barreled into a situation or conversation after my brain had already shut down. My words and actions careened into people who were trying to help me and I had no clue the damage I had done to our relationship.

Wise King Solomon says, “One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless” (Proverbs 14:16 ESV). Our actions and reactions have consequences. Sometimes we need to be reminded that our best self (our Jesus-self) always handles people with care. We will either use our power and strengths thoughtfully to intentionally bring kindness to people, or we hurt people when we mindlessly charge in like a “bull in a china shop.”

Hang in there people. God is glad to be with us. I'm praying for us all.

In His Joy,

**BILL MCGINNIS**

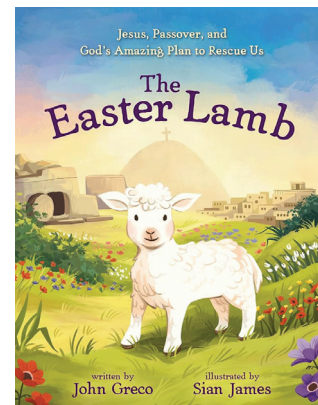
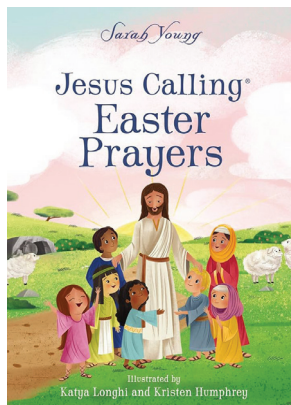
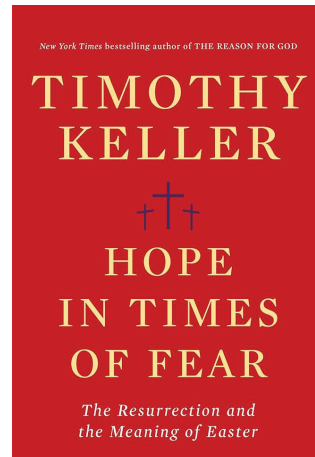
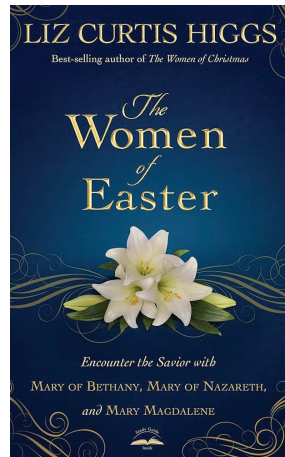
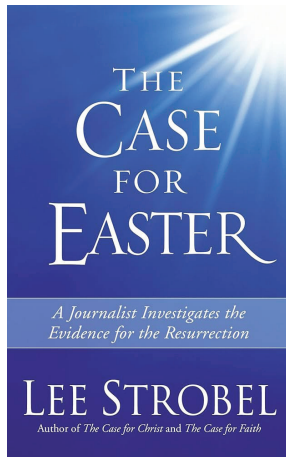
**PASTOR OF CARE**





# ABC Library

The ABC Library has some great adult and children's books for Easter!  
Check out some of the inventory below.



**CONTACT: Rita Ervin**

Email [library@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:library@austinbaptistchurch.com)

or visit us online at [austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/LIBRARY)

## LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAYS - 9:45AM-11:15AM

WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:30PM

# OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

**ATTENDANCE** 03.29.2026

<b>8:45 AM WORSHIP</b> .....	<b>631</b>
<b>11:15 AM WORSHIP</b> .....	<b>411</b>
<b>BIBLE FELLOWSHIP</b> .....	<b>788</b>

**FINANCIAL REPORT** 03.29.2026

ACCOUNT	MAR. 29, 2026	YTD
GENERAL FUND	\$106,989.51	\$1,390,160.15
DESIGNATED	\$3,775.00	\$57,238.00
LIGHT THE WAY - COMBINED	\$4,436.00	\$292,132.58
TOTAL GIVING	\$115,200.51	\$1,739,530.73
<b>MISSION OFFERING</b>	<b>TOTAL RAISED</b>	<b>GOAL</b>
ANNIE ARMSTRONG	\$35,801.00	\$15,000

## JOIN US SUNDAY FOR WORSHIP!

8:45 AM | Choir-led Worship  
 10:00 AM | Bible Fellowship Groups  
 11:15 AM | Band-led Worship

# **HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED PRAYER?**

## **CONTACT US!**

### **ABC CHURCH OFFICE**

Call **512.491.9600** or visit **[austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM](http://austinbaptistchurch.com/TEAM)**

### **ABC PRAYER TEAM**

Email Bill McGinnis at **[billm@austinbaptistchurch.com](mailto:billm@austinbaptistchurch.com)**

### **FOR PUBLICATION CONSIDERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Mariah Parker, Director of Communications

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- **CALL:** **512.334.8247**

Please submit articles and items for The Bridge by the Friday BEFORE publication.



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